

REMARKS

General Remarks

With this Amendment, Applicant cancels claims 1-5, 14, and 15 and amends claims 6 and 16 into independent form. Therefore, Claims 6-13 and 16-18 are all the claims currently pending in the present application.

The Examiner has acknowledged Applicant's claims for foreign priority and the receipt of the certified copy of the priority document. The Examiner has also reviewed and considered the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on March 22, 2001.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Collier, U.S. Patent No. 5,636,001 ("Collier"). Claims 2-5 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Collier, in view of Wagensohnner, U.S. Patent No.; 5,696,616 ("Wagensohnner"). As noted above, Claims 1-5, 14, and 15 are cancelled.

Claims 6-8 and 16-18

Regarding Claims 6-8 and 16-18, the Examiner indicates that these claims contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten into independent form including all the limitations of the claims from which they depend.

With this Amendment, Applicant amends Claim 6 into independent form including the limitations of Claims 1-4 from which it previously depended. Claims 7-8 depend from Claim 6. Applicant amends Claim 16 into independent form, including the imitations of Claims 14-15 from which it previously depended. Claims 17-18 depend from Claim 16.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 6-8 and 16-18 are currently in allowable form and respectfully request the allowance thereof.

Claims 9-13

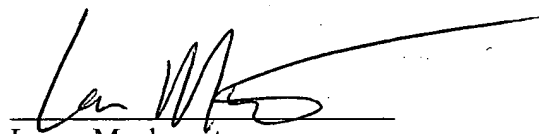
The Examiner indicates that Claims 9-13 have been allowed.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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